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 Filed :  herewith

On Page 10, immediately after Line 18, please insert the following paragraph

Although the foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of the invention has shown, described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the detail of the apparatus as illustrated, as well as the uses thereof, may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the present invention. Consequently, the scope of the invention should not be limited to the foregoing discussion, but should be defined by the appended claims.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) A connector ^(16, 18, 20) for connecting the end portion of a pipe, a pipeline, a pipe string or coiled tubing, wherein the connector is formed or provided with at least one connecting device for equipment/tools, the said connector comprising parts that can be screwed together and have aligned bores for the accommodation of said pipe end portion, which is to be secured in the connector in the screwed-together condition of the parts, said connector further comprising a radially inner transversally shrinkable adapter sleeve ²⁰, which is to bear, in the connected position, at its inner circumferential surface in a clamping manner against the outer jacket surface of the pipe end portion, characterized in that the adapter sleeve exhibits an external, conically extending threaded jacket surface, which is formed with a view of cooperating with a surrounding outer adapter and connector sleeve with an internal, conically extending threaded circumferential surface, said outer adapter and connector sleeve being formed to cooperate with a threaded jacket portion of a socket-like connecting element formed on an end piece ²⁴ having the said connecting device.

2. (Amended) A connector of Claim 1, wherein the outer adapter and connector sleeve has an axial length that exceeds the double axial length of the inner adapter sleeve, whose length essentially corresponds to the depth of entering/screwing of the socket-like connecting

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element into the outer adapter and connector sleeve, characterized in that the connector parts, which can be screwed together, (in the form of the inner sleeve and the socket-like connecting element of the end piece), both have substantially straight cylindrical bores, whereas the outer adapter and connector sleeve has a substantially straight cylindrical outer jacket, so that the conical extent of each of said parts results in a sleeve wall thickness decreasing towards one end, the parts cooperating with each other two and two, in a total wall thickness essentially corresponding to one sleeve wall thickness.

3. (Amended) A connector of Claim 1, wherein at the end located the farthest from said end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a sleeve bore section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the coiled tubing.

4. (Amended) A method of establishing the connection and securing of a pipe end portion to a connector that comprises an elongate adapter sleeve, an inner shrinkable adapter sleeve, and an end piece that includes a socket-like connecting element, wherein the elongate adapter sleeve comprises an inner surface extending longitudinally conical so as to define a sleeve bore and wherein the sleeve bore is provided with threads, wherein the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve comprises a threaded jacket surface of an externally conical extent adapted to be received by the threaded sleeve bore and wherein the inner surface of the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve is dimensioned to fit over the end portion of the pipe, wherein the end piece comprises an externally threaded conically extending socket-like element adapted to be received by the threaded sleeve bore, wherein the end piece further comprises an annular stop surface dimensioned to engage the larger diameter bore end of the elongate adapter sleeve, the method comprising:

positioning the elongate adapter sleeve over the end portion of the pipe in a longitudinal manner;

positioning the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve over the end portion of the pipe;

engaging the threaded jacket surface of the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve with the threaded sleeve bore wherein resulting screwing action compresses the inner adapter sleeve gradually during the relative displacement of their cooperating conical surfaces in the longitudinal direction of the connector until a free internally threaded bore wall

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portion of the outer sleeve projects axially beyond the nearest end of the shrunk inner sleeve; and

engaging the conically extending socket-like connecting element of the end piece into the free internally threaded bore wall portion of the of the outer sleeve until the free end of the elongate adapter sleeve abuts the annular stop surface.

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(cont)

Please add the following new Claims:

5. (New) The connector of Claim 1, wherein the end piece is adapted to receive downhole equipment at the end substantially opposite from the socket-like connecting element.

6. (New) The connector of Claim 1, wherein the external threads of the inner adapter sleeve is left-handed.

7. (New) The connector of Claim 6, wherein the internal surface of the inner adapter sleeve comprises threads that bite into the surface of the pipe to resist displacement of the inner adapter sleeve relative to the pipe.

8. (New) The connector of Claim 7, wherein the threads of the internal surface of the inner adapter sleeve is right-handed.

9. (New) The connector of Claim 6, wherein the external threads of the inner adapter sleeve transfers external torque on the connector so as to further tighten around the pipe so as to resist circumferential displacement of the inner adapter sleeve relative to the pipe.

REMARKS

These changes are being made to bring the subject application into better conformance with U.S. practice, to claim the benefit of a previously filed Norwegian application, and to more distinctly claim what the Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter is being introduced. Entrance of this amendment is respectfully requested.